

RESOLUTION 12-2008

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT MINING

WHEREAS, mining is imperative to meet the consumptive needs of our nation, our state, our communities and families; and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana hosts economically viable mineral ore deposits that have helped to make mining a big part of our cultural and economic foundation; and

WHEREAS, the existing and proposed mining projects in our area do and will operate under the watchful eye of regulatory agencies and have and must meet or exceed the state and federal environmental standards set by society to assure that mining is environmentally sensitive and safe; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working individuals and families that make up our communities derive a direct benefit from environmentally responsible and profitable private mining activities in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana Tunnels is one of the largest private industrial job creators and wage generators in Jefferson County and currently employs 208 mining families with a living wage and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Montana Tunnels is one of Jefferson County's single largest taxpayers, contributing approximately \$1.6 million annually to the Jefferson County tax base, and while spending approximately \$25 million in Montana on goods and services annually, is critical to the retention of our retail, service, utility, city, county and teaching jobs; and

WHEREAS, Montana Tunnels has, though necessary and lawful revisiting of their reclamation and operational planning since 1986, increased the reclamation bond held by the state from \$1.5 million to over \$18 million and will be posting additional bonding with approval of this permit expansion; and

WHEREAS, Montana Tunnels has been a respectable neighbor, conscientious steward and good corporate citizen that operates with an open door policy and is important to general philanthropy with benefits many organizations, civic groups and services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners that it be known by the citizens of this State that we are in support of mining

such as that being done at the Montana Tunnels mine and support Montana Tunnels' life-of-mine expansion request.

- ¬ They meet our vision of sustainability in that they provide for human kind today without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.
- ¬ We acknowledge that mining such as that being done at the Montana Tunnels mine can be done under existing and every improving state and federal law and meet the necessary safeguards for our important environment.
- ¬ The jobs that flow from these business endeavors are critically important to the social and economic well-being of our citizens and communities.
- ¬ The taxes paid by mining operations such as Montana Tunnels are important to sustain the operation of our local, county and state governments, including our schools and all other essential services.

DATED this 11th day of March, 2008.

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

KEN WEBER, CHAIR

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, COMMISSIONER

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER